

CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Authorization To Disband The Gang Alternative Project (GAP)

MEETING DATE: June 6, 2001


PREPARED BY: City Clerk

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the disbanding of the Gang Alternative Project (GAP).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: On May 23, 2001, the City Clerk's Office received the attached letter dated May 16, 2001 from Dee Porter, Chairperson of the Lodi Gang Alternative Project (GAP), informing the City Council that the remaining three members of GAP have voted to dissolve the committee, due to decreasing membership and lack of available time to devote to the project.

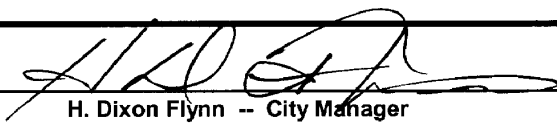
It is, therefore, recommended that the City Council concur with the committee's recommendation and authorize the disbanding of GAP.

FUNDING: None required.


Susan J. Blackston
City Clerk

SJB/jmp

APPROVED: _____


H. Dixon Flynn -- City Manager

Lodi City Council

May 16, 2001

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SUSAN J. BLACKSTON
CITY CLERK
CITY OF LODI

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Regretfully, the Lodi Gang Alternative Project board has ~~voted to dissolve~~. While it has served a very useful purpose for the past nine years: that of changing the direction of "at risk" children, teens and active gang members, the long standing board has dwindled to three women, all of whom have full time jobs and families. It has become very difficult to put forth the necessary time and energy that these kids need.

Our purpose was to fill in the 'gap' between the kids and their schools, police department, court, and often parents. We served as both a supportive group and a resource center. We opened their horizons so that instead of quitting school and getting a dead-end minimum wage job they thought of careers and going to Delta College or trade school to achieve that goal. We talked of self image and how they could overcome their problems without violence. We found the kids to be very respectful, friendly and grateful for the help we could give them. I really wish there was a way we could continue but its just not possible.

The gang problem is still the same, just different kids. There are approximately 300 male gang members and three independent girl gangs with estimated membership of between 35-50 members each. As you know there has been a lot of gang activity in recent months and that's only the 'reported' activity. The kids frequently tell of car chases of rival gangs between Lodi and surrounding towns of Woodbridge, Galt, Lockford, and Stockton, often with guns and other weapons involved. There really is a need for a gap-type of organization and more gang unit police officers. I've personally donated several copies of my gang book to the new patrol officers so they can understand the problems better.

There is money in our checking account -- approximately \$2700. This was part of our Omega Nu money which we used for 'seed money' for projects, and helping these GAP kids in their efforts to go to college and trade school-- which what Omega Nu specifically asked us to do with the money. It was not to go into the City's general fund. I'm hoping that it will continue to be used

for that purpose. The City keeps the books on the account.

We had a lot of good ideas and projects lined up, and will be happy to share the information with whoever needs it. Running GAP has been a very positive and rewarding experience for me. I hope you will be able to form another organization with similar goals.

Sincerely,


De Porter
Chairperson, Lohj Gang Alternative Project

RESOLUTION NO. 2001-149

A RESOLUTION OF THE LODI CITY COUNCIL
AUTHORIZING THE GANG ALTERNATIVE PROJECT
(GAP) TO DISBAND

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lodi City Council hereby authorizes the disbanding of the Gang Alternative Project (GAP) Committee, effective immediately.

Dated: June 6, 2001

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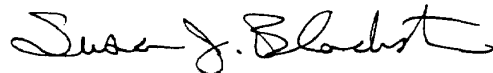
I hereby certify that Resolution No. 2000-149 was passed and adopted by the Lodi City Council in a regular meeting held June 6, 2001 by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – Hitchcock, Howard, Land, Pennino and Mayor Nakanishi

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None



SUSAN J. BLACKSTON
City Clerk